



## breakout ABSTRACT

Abstract No. 2

### TITLE

**A COMMUNITY BASED PERSPECTIVE ON VULNERABILITY INDICATORS FOR TRACKING**

### TRACK

**Network Content**

### OBJECTIVES

Participants will learn how Participatory Action Research can inform the development of vulnerability indicators which can be used in Tracking.

### SUMMARY

Participatory Action Research provides a methodology to quantify the factors that impact health disparities in low-income communities of color. Emphasis is placed on the process, in addition to the research itself and the findings. By taking into account the demographics and SES, we then deepen the research to look at housing conditions that have environmental health impacts. This process uses low tech hazard assessment tools to quantify and correlate environmental health conditions. This scientific evidence is used to document conditions that are generally overlooked by enforcement agencies. The community defines the research questions, leaders are trained to conduct the research, and they go door to door in targeted communities. The findings are then analyzed with the help of experts and the results presented to the participants in the research project. The presentation includes a feedback loop that then improves or validates the conclusions. The hazards documented include: lead in dust, paint, and soil, carbon monoxide levels, underlying moisture problems and vermin infestations that are known asthma triggers. Housing Code violations are documented systematically and health access issues are assessed with a survey instrument.

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